(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government, after considering all requests and other inputs on the subject, has announced setting up of SPTF (Special Purpose Tea Fund) for funding the replantation and rejuvenation wherein 25% will be the subsidy from the Central Government, 25% owners' contribution and 50% loan from the SPTF.

MoU on intellectual property rights

896. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has signed any MoU with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on intellectual property,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) How Government are responding to the concerns that the treaty includes sensitive issues relating to I.P.R. policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) A memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on bilateral cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property Rights has been signed between the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Design and Trade Marks, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the United States Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce on 6th December, 2006. The MoU is limited to capacity building, human resource development and public awareness. It does not include any sensitive issues relating to Intellectual Property Rights such as policy, legislation or enforcement. A copy of the MoU is available on the official website of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (www.dipp.nic.in).

Displacement of people due to SEZs

897. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lots of agricultural population and village artisans will be displaced by acquisition of lands for Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether all of them will get employment in SEZs; and

(d) if not, the alternative proposed to be made available to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) In the 234 valid formal approvals granted till date the extent of land involved is 33,807 hectares of which approximately 17,800 hectares of land was already in the ownership/possession of State Industrial Development Corporations. The rest of the lands were those which were already in the possession of the developers. Thus in all these 234 cases, there was no fresh acquisition of land. However, in respect of the 162 in principle approvals granted, either the State Governments have initiated land acquisition proceedings or the developers are directly purchasing the land. Since land is a State subject, acquisition of land comes under the purview of the State Governments. Under the provisions of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006, SEZs can be set up only in vacant and contiguous land. Each State acquires land for various purposes including for SEZs and has its own compensation and Relief & Rehabilitation measures depending upon the requirements and necessities of respective States. However, the Ministry of Rural Development is currently formulating a revised rehabilitation policy namely the National Rehabilitation Policy 2007 with the objective to minimize displacement and to promote, as far as possible, non-displacing or least displacing alternatives, ensure adequate rehabilitation packages and expeditious implementation of the rehabilitation process with the active participation of the displaced persons. As and when the new policy is implemented, it will apply to acquisition of land for industrial projects including SEZs.

SEZ in Bihar

898. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: